

Memorandum

Date: January 31, 2017

To: Natasha Baker, State School Reform/Redesign Officer
State School Reform/Redesign Office

From: Gary Jensen, Chief Executive Officer
East Detroit Public Schools Group

Subject: Chief Executive Officer Recommendation

Legal/Historical Background

On June 16, 2016, The State School Reform/Redesign Officer issued a notice to the Director and Chief Information Officer of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget confirming the February 2, 2016 determination that better educational results would be achieved at several public schools in the East Detroit Public School District (EDPS) if a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) were appointed to take control of the identified schools. Subsequently, an Agreement for Chief Executive Services was executed between the State School Reform/Redesign Officer, the Director and Chief Information Office of the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget and myself on June 16, 2016.

The statutory authority to execute such an agreement is vested in the State School Reform/Redesign Officer under [Section 1280c\(7\) of the Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1280c\(7\)](#), which states:

(7) If the state school reform/redesign officer determines that better educational results are likely to be achieved by appointing a chief executive officer to take control of multiple public schools, the state school reform/redesign officer may make a recommendation to the superintendent of public instruction for appointment of a chief executive officer to take control over those multiple schools. If the superintendent of public instruction appoints a chief executive officer to take control of multiple public schools under this subsection, the chief executive officer shall impose for those public schools implementation of 1 of the 4 school intervention models described in subsection (2) and impose an addendum to each applicable collective bargaining agreement in effect for those public schools as necessary to implement the school intervention model and that meets the requirements of subsection (8). With respect to those public schools, the chief executive officer has all of the same powers and duties that the state school reform/redesign officer has for public schools placed in the state school reform/redesign school district under subsection (6). The chief executive officer shall regularly submit monitoring reports to the state school reform/redesign officer on the implementation and results of the intervention model in the form and manner, and according to a schedule, as determined by the state school reform/redesign officer. The chief executive officer shall exercise any other powers or duties over the public schools as may be directed by the superintendent of public instruction.

Schools and Intervention Models

Effective June 16, 2016, in the Agreement for Chief Executive Services the State School Reform/Redesign Officer placed the following East Detroit Public Schools under my authority as the CEO:

- Bellview Elementary School
- Pleasantview Elementary School
- Kelly Middle School
- East Detroit High School

As defined in Section 1280c(7) of the Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1280c(7), the CEO shall impose for those public schools implementation of 1 of the 4 school intervention models that are provided for the lowest achieving schools under the federal incentive grant program created under sections 14005 and 14006 of title XIV of the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, known as the "race to the top" grant program. These models are the turnaround model, restart model, school closure, and transformation model.

I chose to adopt the previously approved Reform Plans submitted by the schools listed above and approved by the State School Reform/Redesign Office. Upon initial review of these plans, I did not find them substantially deficient in nature, but needed to verify that the plans are being utilized in the identified buildings as stated. Links to each of the plans can be found in the table below:

TABLE 1: Reform Plans and Intervention Models

School Building Name	Reform Plan Intervention Model
Bellview Elementary School	Transformation Model
Pleasantview Elementary School	Transformation Model
Kelly Middle School	Transformation Model
East Detroit High School	Transformation Model

Recommendation: Bellview Elementary School

On January 20, 2017, the Michigan Department of Education released the 2015-2016 student assessment data for 4 EDPS Priority Schools that were placed under my authority. This data, shows that Bellview Elementary School meets the SRO's published criteria for Release from Priority status. My recommendation, as CEO is to release Bellview Elementary School from Priority Identification and CEO oversight effective immediately. It is very important to note that the Principal Leadership in this building is and will be paramount to their continued success. The current Principal is a change leader and has grown the staff into a visibly productive team of educators.

Recommendation: Pleasantview Elementary School

The January 20, 2017 release of the 2015-2016 student assessment data for 4 EDPS Priority Schools that were placed under my authority, shows that Pleasantview Elementary School meets the SRO's published criteria for Release from Priority status. My recommendation, as CEO is to release Pleasantview Elementary School from Priority Identification and CEO oversight effective immediately. The current Principal is a past educator in the building and appears to have a quality understanding of the building and the processes to continue an upward trend in student proficiency.

Recommendation: Kelly Middle School

The January 20, 2017 release of the 2015-2016 student assessment data for 4 EDPS Priority Schools that were placed under my authority, shows that Kelly Middle School has not progressed enough to meet the SRO's published criteria for Release from Priority status. However, my observations of the instruction taking place at Kelly Middle School illustrates that East Detroit Public Schools is implementing their reform plan. My recommendation, as CEO is to allow for Kelly Middle School to continue operation with their current reform/redesign plan through the end of the 2018-2019 school year. This will allow for the student achievement data from the current 2016-2017 year to be reviewed and one more year for opportunity during the 2017-2018 school year to fully implement changes and administer the state assessment in the spring. Should Kelly Middle School meet the criteria for release from priority status on the September 1, 2018 data release date, my recommendation would be that they are released from Priority status. If the 2017-2018 student achievement data does not demonstrate that Kelly Middle School has made enough progress to qualify for release from Priority Status, my recommendation would be that the school be held to the next level of accountability, possibly reconfigured within the district effective June 30, 2019.

The use of the CEO in the district would be very difficult to maintain throughout the 2017-2018/2018-2019 school year, and East Detroit Public Schools has clearly shown a lack of cooperation to utilize this option. The CEO for the district that started this school year was set to be a three-year process and understanding the changes that have taken place at Kelly Middle School, they would have been afforded three years to get their students at an acceptable level of proficiency. At this time, upon acceptance of this recommendation from the CEO, the transition needs to be made to pull the CEO from the district and allow them to continue their work with the Reform/Redesign Plan for the remainder of the timeline (see below) without the assistance of the CEO. Clearly stating that Kelly Middle School is still under review with the SRO and if these recommendations for student achievement are not met, then next level of accountability would need to be imposed with the district from the SRO.

Math Ranking Kelly Middle School

	2015-2016	2014-2015
All Grades M-Step	34 Students Proficient (<5%)	28 Students Proficient (<5%)
6 th Grade M-Step	10 Students Proficient (<10%)	< 10 Students Proficient (<10%)
7 th Grade M-Step	< 10 Students Proficient (<10%)	10 Students Proficient (<10%)
8 th Grade M-Step	16 Students Proficient (<10%)	11 Students Proficient (<10%)

ELA Ranking Kelly Middle School

	2015-2016	2014-2015
All Grades M-Step	105 Students Proficient (15%)	81 Students Proficient (11%)
6 th Grade M-Step	28 Students Proficient (14%)	22 Students Proficient (9%)
7 th Grade M-Step	35 Students Proficient (14%)	33 Students Proficient (14%)
8 th Grade M-Step	42 Students Proficient (17%)	26 Students Proficient (10%)

Recommendation: East Detroit High School

The January 20, 2017 release of the 2015-2016 student assessment data for 4 EDPS Priority Schools that were placed under my authority, shows that East Detroit High School meets the SRO's published criteria for Release from Priority status. My recommendation, as CEO is to release East Detroit High School from Priority Identification and CEO oversight effective immediately. It is very important to note that the Principal Leadership in this building is and will be paramount to their continued success. The current Principal is a change leader and has made visible changes for students and staff.

Should you have any questions regarding my recommendations, please contact me directly.



Gary Jensen, Chief Executive Officer
East Detroit Public School Group
State School Reform/Redesign Office
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
State of Michigan
www.michigan.gov/sro
Phone: 1-313-806-7277

Trend Data for the 4 Priority Schools:

Overall State Ranking

Overall Ranking	2016-2017 Projections	2015-2016	2013-2014	2012-2013
Pleasantview Elementary	20%	13%	1%	3%
Bellview Elementary	47%	33%	1%	1%
Kelly Middle School	6%	3%	1%	6%
East Detroit High School	17%	11%	0%	3%

